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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/532,305

04/22/2005

Eric Piccuezzu

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EXAMINER

SANTIAGO, ENRIQUE L

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2628

DATE MAILED: 11/01/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/532,305

Applicant(s)

PICCUEZZU ET AL.

Examiner

Enrique L. Santiago

Art Unit

2628

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 April 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,5-8 and 10-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3,4 and 9 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>4-22-05</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The claim includes “means” and “method” it is unclear whether the applicants intended the claim to be a method or apparatus claim.

Claims 17-21 are rejected due to their dependence on claim 16.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 2, 6-8, 10-16, 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Stone et al. US patent no. 5,818,455.

-Regarding claim 1, Stone et al. teaches a method for constructing and viewing computer model image (see the abstract, column 1, lines 37-51) comprising: defining and applying display attributes for the objects comprising the model (see column 4, lines 12-21), storing the aforementioned attributes in a memory (see column 1, lines 56-61, column 13, lines 15-25), displaying the image on a viewing screen (see figs. 1A-3, column 5, lines 31-42), characterized

Art Unit: 2628

in that, the following actions are performed: selection of at least one image zone (see figs. 3-4B, column 8, lines 51-67 [VOR = viewing operation region]), display of the part of the image located outside the selected zone with the current display attributes (see figs. 1A, 2A-4B, column 3, lines 32-41 and line 55-column 4, line 4, column 5, lines 9-29), definition of the specific display attributes for the objects to be displayed inside the selected zone (see figs 1A, 2A-4B, column 4, lines 23-41, column 5, lines 30-34), display of the part of the image located in the selected zone with the specific display attributes (see figs. 1A, 2A-4B, column 3, line 55- column 4, line 21, column 15, line39-column 16, line 3).

-Regarding claim 2, Stone et al. teaches a method wherein the image located outside of selected zone is displayed by creation of a mask corresponding to the aforementioned selected zone (see fig. 3, column 6, lines 13-21, column 10, lines 16-33).

-Regarding claim 6, Stone et al. teaches a method wherein the display attributes include an opacity (transparency) value (see column 6, lines 12-21, column 10, lines 17-33).

-Regarding claim 7, Stone et al. teaches a method for constructing and viewing a computer model image wherein the display attributes include a features that would making a displayed region visible or invisible (see column 8, lines 58-67 [i.e. visibility is defined as a Boolean state {either visible, or invisible}]).

-Regarding claim 8, Stone et al. teaches a method for constructing and viewing a computer model image wherein the list of the objects to display is determined by selecting the objects of the model projected in the selected zone (see figs. 1B-4B, column 4, lines 12-18 [i.e. the selected images contain multiple objects, said objects are inherently listed and stored in memory {column 1, lines 53-61}]).

-Regarding claim 10, Stone et al. teaches a method for constructing and viewing a computer model image wherein the current display attributes are stored (see fig. 1A, column 1, lines 56-61, column 13, lines 15-25) before definition of the specific display attributes for later use (see column 1, lines 56-61, column 13, lines 15-25).

-Regarding claim 11, Stone et al. teaches a method for constructing and viewing a computer model image wherein the selected zone is linked to the objects to be displayed so that they still correspond whatever the changes of the viewpoint position (see figs. 3-5E, 6A, 6B and 13, column 5, lines 23-28, column 8, lines 23-30).

-Regarding claim 12, Stone et al. teaches a method for constructing and viewing a computer model image wherein the selection of the image zone is modified by moving the zone (see column 8, lines 16-26, column 8, lines 51-57).

-Regarding claim 13, Stone et al. teaches a method for constructing and viewing a computer model image wherein the selection of the image zone is modified by changing the dimension of zone (see figs. 3-4B, column 14, lines 11-14).

-Regarding claim 14, Stone et al. teaches a method for constructing and viewing a computer model image wherein the selection of the image zone is modified by changing the position of the screen plane (see figs. 5A, 6B, 11 and 13, column 4, lines 56-63, column 5, lines 64-65, column 6, lines 48-61).

-Regarding claim 15, Stone et al. teaches a method for constructing and viewing a computer model image wherein the selection of the image zone is modified by moving the computer model in the screen plane (see figs. 5A, 6B, 11 and 13, column 4, lines 56-63, column 5, lines 64-65, column 6, lines 48-61).

-Regarding claim 16, the rationale for claim 1 is incorporated. Additionally Stone teaches means for defining and applying the display attributes of the objects constituting the model (see fig. 14, column 9, lines 34-39, column 12, lines 43-59, column 13, lines 12-14), a memory capacity for data storage (see column 13, line 16), a screen for viewing and means for displaying the image on aforementioned screen (see fig. 14, column 13, lines 5-8), a man-machine interface (see fig. 14, box 154) with means for selecting at least one zone of the image (see column 8, lines 56-57) and means for data input (see column 12, lines 5-19) of at least one parameter for defining the specific display attributes for the objects to be displayed in selected zone (see column 4, lines 12-41).

-Regarding claim 19, Stone et al. teaches a device wherein the selection zone is a disc (see figs. 8C, 9B-11 and 13, see column 7, lines 61-64, column 8, lines 42-45).

-Regarding claim 20, Stone et al. further teaches a device wherein the man-machine interface includes means for adjusting the radius of the selection zone (see figs 5A-5E, 6A and 6B).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 3-5 and 9 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 17, 18 and 21 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, however the applicants must first overcome the 35 U.S.C. 112 rejection.

Art Unit: 2628

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

US patent no. 6,985,161 B1: US patent no. 6,958,759 B2: US patent no. 6,933,955 B2

US patent no. 6,664,959 B2: US patent no. 6,526,577 B1: US patent no. 6,518,986 B1

US patent no. 6,396,507 B1: US patent no. 6,377,285 B1: US patent no. 6,249,290 B1

US patent no. 5,754,348: US patent no. 5,729,704

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Enrique L Santiago whose telephone number is (571) 272-7648. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday from 6:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark K. Zimmerman whose telephone number is (571) 272-7653, can be reached on Monday to Friday from 7:00 A.M. to 3:30 P.M.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished

Art Unit: 2628

applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Enrique L. Santiago

October 30, 2006

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Zimmerman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

MARK ZIMMERMAN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600